

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 24-27, 29-39 and 41-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over TILIKS et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,850,605) Claims 28 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over TILIKS in view of HENNINGSON et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,350).

Upon entry of the present Response, claims 24-46 will have been cancelled and claims 47-69 will have been added for consideration. The cancellation of claims 24-46 and addition of claims 47-69 should not be considered an indication of Applicants' acquiescence as to the propriety of any outstanding rejection. Rather, Applicants have cancelled claims 24-46 and added claims 47-69 to advance prosecution and obtain early allowance of claims in the present application. Applicants particularly note that the amended claims may be considered broader in some respects than the previously pending claims.

Each of the outstanding rejections has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 24-46. Nevertheless, Applicants traverse each of the outstanding rejections insofar as any of claims 47-69 recite features similar to the features previously recited in claims 24-46.

Applicants traverse the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over TILIKS and the outstanding rejection of claims 28 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over TILIKS in view of HENNINGSON et al. In this regard, TILIKS is directed to configuring a service control point in accordance with instructions from a communications subscriber for a terminating address such as a toll free number. In contrast, independent claim 47 is directed to a communication processor for controlling

an outbound communication. The communication processor of claim 47 includes a memory that stores outbound communication rule information for a rule that is configurable by a subscriber to a service with which the outbound communication is sent. The outbound communication rule information governs processing for the outbound communication and includes a condition and an action to be taken for the outbound communication when the condition is satisfied.

TILIKS does not include a memory that stores outbound communication rule information for a rule that is configurable by a subscriber to a service with which the outbound communication is originated. Indeed, TILIKS does not disclose a communication processor for controlling an outbound communication whatsoever, nor controlling an outbound communication. Rather, any instructions from a subscriber in the cited portions of TILIKS are instructions accepted for incoming calls to destination addresses such as 800 numbers. As has been explained exhaustively in prosecution for the present application, numerous technical differences exist between processing incoming communications (as in TILIKS) and processing outgoing communications (as in the present claims). Accordingly, claim 47 is allowable over TILIKS under 35 U.S.C. §102.

In addition to the above-noted feature recited in claim 47, numerous other features relating to outbound communication rule information that is configurable by a subscriber are recited in various of claims 47-69. As described above, TILIKS also does not disclose the features recited in claim 58. That is, as described above, the teachings of TILIKS are not directed to storing outbound communication rule information for a rule

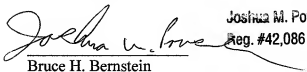
that is configurable by a subscriber responsible to a service with which the outbound communication is originated, as recited in claim 58.

Accordingly, independent claims 47 and 58 are allowable at least for each and all of the reasons set forth above. Claims 48-57 and 59-69 are allowable at least because each of these claims depends, directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claims 47 and 58, as well as for additional reasons related to their own recitations.

Any amendments to the claims in this Response, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, would be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions regarding this Response, any representative of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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May 22, 2008
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